

PHA Plans

Streamlined Annual Version

U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian
Housing

OMB No. 2577-0226
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This information collection is authorized by Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which added a new section 5A to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 that introduced 5-year and annual PHA Plans. The full PHA plan provides a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public of the PHA's mission and strategies for serving the needs of low-income and very low-income families. This form allows eligible PHAs to make a streamlined annual Plan submission to HUD consistent with HUD's efforts to provide regulatory relief for certain types of PHAs. Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 11.7 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Streamlined Annual PHA Plan

for Fiscal Year: 2008

PHA Name: Amherst Housing Authority

NOTE: This PHA Plan template (HUD-50075-SA) is to be completed in accordance with instructions contained in previous Notices PIH 99-33 (HA), 99-51 (HA), 2000-22 (HA), 2000-36 (HA), 2000-43 (HA), 2001-4 (HA), 2001-26 (HA), 2003-7 (HA), and any related notices HUD may subsequently issue.

Streamlined Annual PHA Plan Agency Identification

PHA Name: Amherst Housing Authority

PHA Number: MA085

PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: 04/2008

PHA Programs Administered:

☒ **Public Housing and Section 8**

Number of public housing units: 15

Number of S8 units: 413

☐ **Section 8 Only**

Number of S8 units:

☐ **Public Housing Only**

Number of public housing units:

☐ **PHA Consortia:** (check box if submitting a joint PHA Plan and complete table)

Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) Included in the Consortium	Programs Not in the Consortium	# of Units Each Program
Participating PHA 1:				
Participating PHA 2:				
Participating PHA 3:				

PHA Plan Contact Information:

Name: Donna Crabtree

Phone: 413 256 0206 ext. 304

TDD:

Email (if available): dcrabtree@amhersthousingauthority.org

Public Access to Information

Information regarding any activities outlined in this plan can be obtained by contacting:
(select all that apply)

☒ PHA's main administrative office ☐ PHA's development management offices

Display Locations For PHA Plans and Supporting Documents

The PHA Plan revised policies or program changes (including attachments) are available for public review and inspection. ☒ Yes ☐ No.

If yes, select all that apply:

☒ Main administrative office of the PHA

☐ PHA development management offices

☐ Main administrative office of the local, county or State government

☒ Public library ☐ PHA website ☒ Other (Town Planning office)

PHA Plan Supporting Documents are available for inspection at: (select all that apply)

☒ Main business office of the PHA ☐ PHA development management offices

☐ Other (list below)

Streamlined Annual PHA Plan

Fiscal Year 2008

[24 CFR Part 903.12(c)]

Table of Contents

[24 CFR 903.7(r)]

Provide a table of contents for the Plan, including applicable additional requirements, and a list of supporting documents available for public inspection.

A. PHA PLAN COMPONENTS

- ☐ 1. Site-Based Waiting List Policies
903.7(b)(2) Policies on Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions
- ☒ 2. Capital Improvement Needs
903.7(g) Statement of Capital Improvements Needed
- ☒ 3. Section 8(y) Homeownership
903.7(k)(1)(i) Statement of Homeownership Programs
- ☒ 4. Project-Based Voucher Programs
- ☒ 5. PHA Statement of Consistency with Consolidated Plan. Complete only if PHA has changed any policies, programs, or plan components from its last Annual Plan.
- ☒ 6. Supporting Documents Available for Review
- ☒ 7. Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor, Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
- ☒ 8. Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan

B. SEPARATE HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS TO LOCAL HUD FIELD OFFICE

Form HUD-50076, PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations: Board Resolution to Accompany the Streamlined Annual Plan identifying policies or programs the PHA has revised since submission of its last Annual Plan, and including Civil Rights certifications and assurances the changed policies were presented to the Resident Advisory Board for review and comment, approved by the PHA governing board, and made available for review and inspection at the PHA's principal office;

For PHAs Applying for Formula Capital Fund Program (CFP) Grants:

Form HUD-50070, Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace;

Form HUD-50071, Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions; and

Form SF-LLL & SF-LLLa, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

1. Site-Based Waiting Lists (Eligibility, Selection, Admissions Policies)

[24 CFR Part 903.12(c), 903.7(b)(2)]

Exemptions: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component.

A. Site-Based Waiting Lists-Previous Year

1. Has the PHA operated one or more site-based waiting lists in the previous year? **NO** If yes, complete the following table; if not skip to B.

Site-Based Waiting Lists				
Development Information: (Name, number, location)	Date Initiated	Initial mix of Racial, Ethnic or Disability Demographics	Current mix of Racial, Ethnic or Disability Demographics since Initiation of SBWL	Percent change between initial and current mix of Racial, Ethnic, or Disability demographics

2. What is the number of site based waiting list developments to which families may apply at one time?
3. How many unit offers may an applicant turn down before being removed from the site-based waiting list?
4. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA the subject of any pending fair housing complaint by HUD or any court order or settlement agreement? If yes, describe the order, agreement or complaint and describe how use of a site-based waiting list will not violate or be inconsistent with the order, agreement or complaint below:

B. Site-Based Waiting Lists – Coming Year

If the PHA plans to operate one or more site-based waiting lists in the coming year, answer each of the following questions; **NO** if not, skip to next component.

1. How many site-based waiting lists will the PHA operate in the coming year?
2. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Are any or all of the PHA's site-based waiting lists new for the upcoming year (that is, they are not part of a previously-HUD-approved site based waiting list plan)?

- If yes, how many lists?
3. ☐ Yes ☐ No: May families be on more than one list simultaneously
If yes, how many lists?
4. Where can interested persons obtain more information about and sign up to be on the site-based waiting lists (select all that apply)?
- ☐ PHA main administrative office
 - ☐ All PHA development management offices
 - ☐ Management offices at developments with site-based waiting lists
 - ☐ At the development to which they would like to apply
 - ☐ Other (list below)

2. Capital Improvement Needs

[24 CFR Part 903.12 (c), 903.7 (g)]

Exemptions: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component.

A. Capital Fund Program

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No Does the PHA plan to participate in the Capital Fund Program in the upcoming year? If yes, complete items 7 and 8 of this template (Capital Fund Program tables). If no, skip to B.
2. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA propose to use any portion of its CFP funds to repay debt incurred to finance capital improvements? If so, the PHA must identify in its annual and 5-year capital plans the development(s) where such improvements will be made and show both how the proceeds of the financing will be used and the amount of the annual payments required to service the debt. (Note that separate HUD approval is required for such financing activities.).

B. HOPE VI and Public Housing Development and Replacement Activities (Non-Capital Fund)

Applicability: All PHAs administering public housing. Identify any approved HOPE VI and/or public housing development or replacement activities not described in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA received a HOPE VI revitalization grant? (if no, skip to #3; if yes, provide responses to the items on the chart located on the next page, copying and completing as many times as necessary).
2. Status of HOPE VI revitalization grant(s):

HOPE VI Revitalization Grant Status
a. Development Name:
b. Development Number:
c. Status of Grant: <input type="checkbox"/> Revitalization Plan under development <input type="checkbox"/> Revitalization Plan submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Revitalization Plan approved <input type="checkbox"/> Activities pursuant to an approved Revitalization Plan underway

3. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA expect to apply for a HOPE VI Revitalization grant in the Plan year?
If yes, list development name(s) below:
4. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Will the PHA be engaging in any mixed-finance development activities for public housing in the Plan year? If yes, list developments or activities below:
5. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Will the PHA be conducting any other public housing development or replacement activities not discussed in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement? If yes, list developments or activities below:

3. Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance--Section 8(y) Homeownership Program
(if applicable) [24 CFR Part 903.12(c), 903.7(k)(1)(i)]

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA plan to administer a Section 8 Homeownership program pursuant to Section 8(y) of the U.S.H.A. of 1937, as implemented by 24 CFR part 982 ? (If "No", skip to the next component; if "yes", complete each program description below (copy and complete questions for each program identified.)
2. Program Description:
- a. Size of Program
☐ Yes ☒ No: Will the PHA limit the number of families participating in the Section 8 homeownership option?

If the answer to the question above was yes, what is the maximum number of participants this fiscal year?
- b. PHA-established eligibility criteria
☐ Yes ☒ No: Will the PHA's program have eligibility criteria for participation in its Section 8 Homeownership Option program in addition to HUD criteria?
If yes, list criteria:

c. What actions will the PHA undertake to implement the program this year (list)? Make referrals to partnering agency

3. Capacity of the PHA to Administer a Section 8 Homeownership Program:

The PHA has demonstrated its capacity to administer the program by (select all that apply):

- ☐ Establishing a minimum homeowner downpayment requirement of at least 3 percent of purchase price and requiring that at least 1 percent of the purchase price comes from the family's resources.
- ☐ Requiring that financing for purchase of a home under its Section 8 homeownership will be provided, insured or guaranteed by the state or Federal government; comply with secondary mortgage market underwriting requirements; or comply with generally accepted private sector underwriting standards.
- ☒ Partnering with a qualified agency or agencies to administer the program (list name(s) and years of experience below): Greenfield Housing Authority
- ☐ Demonstrating that it has other relevant experience (list experience below):

4. Use of the Project-Based Voucher Program

Intent to Use Project-Based Assistance

☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA plan to "project-base" any tenant-based Section 8 vouchers in the coming year? If the answer is "no," go to the next component. If yes, answer the following questions.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Are there circumstances indicating that the project basing of the units, rather than tenant-basing of the same amount of assistance is an appropriate option? If yes, check which circumstances apply:

- ☐ low utilization rate for vouchers due to lack of suitable rental units
- ☐ access to neighborhoods outside of high poverty areas
- ☒ other (describe below):

High cost of rental housing in a community with three colleges and a vacancy rate of 1% or less; many voucher holders are paying over 40% of their incomes for rent after the first year of tenancy.

2. Indicate the number of units and general location of units (e.g. eligible census tracts or smaller areas within eligible census tracts): 6 units in census track # 8205

5. PHA Statement of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

[24 CFR Part 903.15]

For each applicable Consolidated Plan, make the following statement (copy questions as many times as necessary) only if the PHA has provided a certification listing program or policy changes from its last Annual Plan submission.

1. Consolidated Plan jurisdiction: (provide name here) Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2. The PHA has taken the following steps to ensure consistency of this PHA Plan with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction: (select all that apply)
 - ☐ The PHA has based its statement of needs of families on its waiting lists on the needs expressed in the Consolidated Plan/s.
 - ☐ The PHA has participated in any consultation process organized and offered by the Consolidated Plan agency in the development of the Consolidated Plan.
 - ☒ The PHA has consulted with the Consolidated Plan agency during the development of this PHA Plan.
 - ☐ Activities to be undertaken by the PHA in the coming year are consistent with the initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan. (list below)
 - ☐ Other: (list below)
3. The Consolidated Plan of the jurisdiction supports the PHA Plan with the following actions and commitments: (describe below)

6. Supporting Documents Available for Review for Streamlined Annual PHA Plans

PHAs are to indicate which documents are available for public review by placing a mark in the “Applicable & On Display” column in the appropriate rows. All listed documents must be on display if applicable to the program activities conducted by the PHA.

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	Supporting Document	Related Plan Component
	<i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations and Board Resolution to Accompany the Standard Annual, Standard Five-Year, and Streamlined Five-Year/Annual Plans;</i>	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	<i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations and Board Resolution to Accompany the Streamlined Annual Plan</i>	Streamlined Annual Plans
X	<i>Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plan Consistency with Consolidated Plan.</i>	5 Year and standard Annual Plans
X	Fair Housing Documentation Supporting Fair Housing Certifications: Records reflecting that the PHA has examined its programs or proposed programs, identified any impediments to fair housing choice in those programs, addressed or is addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available, and worked or is working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdictions’ initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA’s involvement.	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Housing Needs Statement of the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction(s) in which the PHA is located and any additional backup data to support statement of housing needs for families on the PHA’s public housing and Section 8 tenant-based waiting lists.	Annual Plan: Housing Needs
X	Most recent board-approved operating budget for the public housing program	Annual Plan: Financial Resources
X	Public Housing Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy Policy (A&O/ACOP), which includes the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan [TSAP] and the Site-Based Waiting List Procedure.	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Deconcentration Income Analysis	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Any policy governing occupancy of Police Officers and Over-Income Tenants in Public Housing. <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in the public housing A&O Policy.	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Public housing rent determination policies, including the method for setting public housing flat rents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy.	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Schedule of flat rents offered at each public housing development. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy.	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Section 8 rent determination (payment standard) policies (if included in plan, not necessary as a supporting document) and written analysis of Section 8 payment standard policies. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan.	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Public housing management and maintenance policy documents, including policies for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (including cockroach infestation).	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	Supporting Document	Related Plan Component
X	Results of latest Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) Assessment (or other applicable assessment).	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
X	Follow-up Plan to Results of the PHAS Resident Satisfaction Survey (if necessary)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance and Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
X	Results of latest Section 8 Management Assessment System (SEMAP)	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
X	Any policies governing any Section 8 special housing types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance
X	Public housing grievance procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	Section 8 informal review and hearing procedures. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan.	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	The Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program Annual Statement /Performance and Evaluation Report for any active grant year.	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
X	Most recent CIAP Budget/Progress Report (HUD 52825) for any active CIAP grants.	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved HOPE VI applications or, if more recent, approved or submitted HOPE VI Revitalization Plans, or any other approved proposal for development of public housing.	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
X	Self-evaluation, Needs Assessment and Transition Plan required by regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. See PIH Notice 99-52 (HA).	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved or submitted applications for demolition and/or disposition of public housing.	Annual Plan: Demolition and Disposition
	Approved or submitted applications for designation of public housing (Designated Housing Plans).	Annual Plan: Designation of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted assessments of reasonable revitalization of public housing and approved or submitted conversion plans prepared pursuant to section 202 of the 1996 HUD Appropriations Act, Section 22 of the US Housing Act of 1937, or Section 33 of the US Housing Act of 1937.	Annual Plan: Conversion of Public Housing
	Documentation for required Initial Assessment and any additional information required by HUD for Voluntary Conversion.	Annual Plan: Voluntary Conversion of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted public housing homeownership programs/plans.	Annual Plan: Homeownership
X	Policies governing any Section 8 Homeownership program (Section <u>22</u> of the Section 8 Administrative Plan)	Annual Plan: Homeownership
X	Public Housing Community Service Policy/Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in Public Housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Cooperative agreement between the PHA and the TANF agency and between the PHA and local employment and training service agencies.	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	FSS Action Plan(s) for public housing and/or Section 8.	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Section 3 documentation required by 24 CFR Part 135, Subpart E for public housing.	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Most recent self-sufficiency (ED/SS, TOP or ROSS or other resident services grant) grant program reports for public housing.	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
X	Policy on Ownership of Pets in Public Housing Family Developments (as required by regulation at 24 CFR Part 960, Subpart G). <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy.	Annual Plan: Pet Policy
X	The results of the most recent fiscal year audit of the PHA conducted under the Single Audit Act as implemented by OMB Circular A-133, the results of that audit and the PHA's response to any findings.	Annual Plan: Annual Audit
	Other supporting documents (optional)	(specify as needed)

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	Supporting Document	Related Plan Component
	(list individually; use as many lines as necessary)	
	Consortium agreement(s) and for Consortium Joint PHA Plans <u>Only</u> : Certification that consortium agreement is in compliance with 24 CFR Part 943 pursuant to an opinion of counsel on file and available for inspection.	Joint Annual PHA Plan for Consortia: Agency Identification and Annual Management and Operations

7. Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report and Replacement Housing Factor

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary					
PHA Name: Amherst Housing Authority			Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: MA06P08550108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:		Federal FY of Grant: 2008
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Annual Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Annual Statement (revision no:) <input type="checkbox"/> Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: <input type="checkbox"/> Final Performance and Evaluation Report					
Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds				
2	1406 Operations	17243.			
3	1408 Management Improvements	4927.			
4	1410 Administration	2463			
5	1411 Audit				
6	1415 Liquidated Damages				
7	1430 Fees and Costs				
8	1440 Site Acquisition				
9	1450 Site Improvement				
10	1460 Dwelling Structures				
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable				
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures				
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment				
14	1485 Demolition				
15	1490 Replacement Reserve				
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration				
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs				
18	1499 Development Activities				
19	1501 Collateralization or Debt Service				
20	1502 Contingency				
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	24633.			
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities				
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance				
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs				
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs				
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation				

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Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary					
PHA Name: Amherst Housing Authority			Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: MA06P08550108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:		Federal FY of Grant: 2008
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Annual Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Annual Statement (revision no:) <input type="checkbox"/> Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: <input type="checkbox"/> Final Performance and Evaluation Report					
Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
	Measures				

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part II: Supporting Pages								
PHA Name: Amherst Housing Authority			Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: MA06P08550108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:			Federal FY of Grant: 2008		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
HA wide	Management Improvements-Upgrade software system, replace hardware	1408		4927				
HA wide	Administrative expenses-general office costs, postage, etc.	1401		2463				
085-001	Operations Florence Savings Bank	1406		17243				

7. Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report and Replacement Housing Factor

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report

Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)

Part II: Supporting Pages

[illegible]

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report

Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)

Part III: Implementation Schedule

7. Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report and Replacement Housing Factor

[illegible]

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan

Part I: Summary

PHA Name Amherst Housing Authority				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original 5-Year Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Revision No:	
Development Number/Name/HA-Wide	Year 1	Work Statement for Year 2 FFY Grant: 2009 PHA FY: 2009	Work Statement for Year 3 FFY Grant: PHA FY:	Work Statement for Year 4 FFY Grant: PHA FY:	Work Statement for Year 5 FFY Grant: PHA FY:
MA085-001	Annual Statement	\$17,243.			
HA wide		7,390.			
CFP Funds Listed for 5-year planning					
Replacement Housing Factor Funds					

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan

Part II: Supporting Pages—Work Activities

Activities for Year 1	Activities for Year : <u>2009</u> FFY Grant: 2009 PHA FY: 2009			Activities for Year: ____ FFY Grant: PHA FY:		
	Development Name/Number	Major Work Categories	Estimated Cost	Development Name/Number	Major Work Categories	Estimated Cost
See	MA085-001	1406-operations	17,243.			
Annual						
Statement						
Total CFP Estimated Cost			\$17,243.00			\$

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan
Part II: Supporting Pages—Work Activities

Activities for Year : ____ FFY Grant: PHA FY:			Activities for Year: ____ FFY Grant: PHA FY:		
Development Name/Number	Major Work Categories	Estimated Cost	Development Name/Number	Major Work Categories	Estimated Cost
Total CFP Estimated Cost		\$			\$

AMHERST HOUSING AUTHORITY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) POLICY

I. Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this policy (herein called “Policy”) is to implement the applicable provisions of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-162) and more generally to set forth AHA’s policies and procedures regarding domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as hereinafter defined.

This Policy shall be applicable to the administration by AHA of all federally subsidized public housing and Section 8 rental assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. §1437 *et seq.*). Notwithstanding its title, this policy is gender-neutral, and its protections are available to males who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as well as female victims of such violence.

II. Goals and Objectives

This Policy has the following principal goals and objectives:

- A. Maintaining compliance with all applicable legal requirements imposed by VAWA;
- B. Ensuring the physical safety of victims of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking who are assisted by AHA;
- C. Providing and maintaining housing opportunities for victims of domestic violence dating violence, or stalking;
- D. Creating and maintaining collaborative arrangements between AHA, law enforcement authorities, victim service providers, and others to promote the safety and well-being of victims of actual and threatened domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, who are assisted by AHA; and
- E. Taking appropriate action in response to an incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, affecting individuals assisted by AHA.

III. Other AHA Policies and Procedures

This Policy shall be referenced in and attached to AHA's Annual and Five-Year Public Housing Agency Plans, and shall be incorporated in and made a part of AHA's Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy for public housing and the AHA's Section 8 Administrative Plan To the extent any provision of this policy shall vary or contradict any previously adopted policy or procedure of AHA, the provisions of this Policy shall prevail.

IV. Definitions

As used in this Policy:

A. *Domestic Violence* – The term 'domestic violence' includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction."

B. *Dating Violence* – means violence committed by a person—

(A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

(B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

(i) The length of the relationship.

(ii) The type of relationship.

(iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

C. *Stalking – means –*

(A) (i) to follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and

(ii) to place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass or intimidate another person; and

(B) in the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to –

(i) that person;

(ii) a member of the immediate family of that person; or

(iii) the spouse or intimate partner of that person;

D. *Immediate Family Member* - means, with respect to a person –

(A) a spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in loco parentis;
or

(B) any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood or marriage.

E. *Perpetrator* – means person who commits an act of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking against a victim.

V. Admissions and Screening

A. *Non-Denial of Assistance*. AHA will not deny admission to public housing or to the Section 8 rental assistance program to any person because that person is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, provided that such person is otherwise qualified for such admission.

VI. Termination of Tenancy or Assistance

A. *VAWA Protections*. Under VAWA, public housing residents and persons assisted under the Section 8 rental assistance program have the following specific protections, which will be observed by AHA:

1. An incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will not be considered to be a “serious or repeated” violation of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of that violence and will not be good cause for terminating the tenancy or occupancy rights of or assistance to the victim of that violence.
2. In addition to the foregoing, tenancy or assistance will not be terminated by AHA as a result of criminal activity, if that criminal activity is directly related to domestic violence, dating violence or stalking engaged in by a member of the assisted household, a guest or another person under the tenant’s control, and the tenant or an immediate family member is the victim or threatened victim of this criminal activity. However, the protection against termination of tenancy or assistance described in this paragraph is subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Nothing contained in this paragraph shall limit any otherwise available authority of AHA’ or a Section 8 owner or manager to terminate tenancy, evict, or to terminate assistance, as the case may be, for any violation of a lease or program requirement not premised on the act or acts of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking in question against the tenant or a member of the tenant’s household. However, in taking any such action, neither AHA nor a Section 8 manager or owner may apply a more demanding standard to the victim of domestic violence dating violence or stalking than that applied to other tenants.
- (b) Nothing contained in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of AHA or a Section 8 owner or manager to evict or terminate from assistance any tenant or lawful applicant if the owner, manager or AHA, as the case may be, can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or to those employed at or providing service to the property, if the tenant is not evicted or terminated from assistance.

B. *Removal of Perpetrator.* Further, notwithstanding anything in paragraph VI.A.2. or Federal, State or local law to the contrary, AHA or a Section 8 owner or manager, as the case may be, may bifurcate a lease, or remove a household member from a lease, without regard to whether a household member is a signatory to a lease, in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in acts of physical violence against family members or others. Such action against the perpetrator of such physical violence may be taken without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is also the tenant or a lawful occupant. Such eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance shall be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law applicable to terminations of tenancy and evictions by AHA. Leases used for all public housing operated by AHA and, at the option of Section 8 owners or managers, leases for dwelling units occupied by families assisted with Section 8 rental assistance administered by AHA, shall contain provisions setting forth the substance of this paragraph.

VII. Verification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking

A. *Requirement for Verification:* AHA shall require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by AHA. Section 8 owners or managers receiving rental assistance administered by AHA may elect to require verification, or not to require it as permitted under applicable law.

Verification of a claimed incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking may be accomplished in one of the following three ways:

1. *HUD-approved form* - by providing to AHA or to the requesting Section 8 owner or manager a written certification, on a form approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The incident or incidents in question must be described in reasonable detail as required in the HUD-approved form, and the completed certification must include the name of the perpetrator.
2. *Other documentation* - by providing to AHA or to the requesting Section 8 owner or manager documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of the abuse, described in such documentation. The professional providing the documentation must sign and attest under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional's belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The victim of the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking described in the documentation must also sign and attest to the documentation under penalty of perjury.
3. *Police or court record* – by providing to AHA or to the requesting Section 8 owner or

manager a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record describing the incident or incidents in question.

B. *Time allowed to provide verification/ failure to provide.* An individual who claims protection against adverse action based on an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and who is requested by AHA, or a Section 8 owner or manager to provide verification, must provide such verification within 14 business days after receipt of the request for verification. Failure to provide verification, in proper form within such time will result in loss of protection under VAWA and this policy against a proposed adverse action.

VIII. Confidentiality

A. *Right of confidentiality.* All information (including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking) provided to AHA or to a Section 8 owner or manager in connection with a verification required under section VII of this policy shall be retained by the receiving party in confidence and shall neither be entered in any shared database nor provided to any related entity, except where disclosure is:

1. requested or consented to by the individual in writing, or
2. required for use in a public housing eviction proceeding or in connection with termination of Section 8 assistance, as permitted in VAWA, or
3. otherwise required by applicable law.

B. *Notification of rights.* All tenants of public housing and tenants participating in the Section 8 rental assistance program administered by AHA shall be notified in writing concerning their right to confidentiality and the limits on such rights to confidentiality.

VIII. Transfer to New Residence

A. *Portability.* Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Section 8-assisted tenant will not be denied portability to a unit located in another jurisdiction (notwithstanding the term of the tenant's existing lease has not expired, or the family has not occupied the unit for 12 months) so long as the tenant has complied with all other requirements of the Section 8 program and has moved from the unit in order to protect a health or safety of an individual member of the household who is or has been the victim of domestic violence dating violence or stalking and who reasonably believes that the tenant or other household member will be imminently threatened by harm from further violence if the individual remains in the present dwelling unit.

X. Court Orders/Family Break-up

A. *Court orders.* The AHA may honor orders entered by courts of competent jurisdiction affecting individuals assisted by AHA and their property. This includes cooperating with law enforcement authorities to enforce civil protection orders issued for the protection of victims and addressing the distribution of personal property among household members in cases where a family breaks up.

B. *Family break-up.* Other AHA policies regarding family break-up are contained in AHA's Public Housing Admissions and Continuing Occupancy Plan (ACOP) and its Section 8 Administrative Plan.

XI. Relationships with Service Providers

It is the policy of AHA to cooperate with organizations and entities, both private and governmental that provide shelter and/or services to victims of domestic violence. If AHA staff becomes aware that an individual assisted by AHA is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, AHA may refer the victim to such providers of shelter or services as appropriate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Policy does not create any legal obligation requiring AHA either to maintain a relationship with any particular provider of shelter or services to victims of domestic violence or to make a referral in any particular case.

XII. Notification

AHA shall provide written notification to applicants, tenants, and Section 8 owners and managers, concerning the rights and obligations created under VAWA relating to confidentiality, denial of assistance and, termination of tenancy or assistance.

XIII. Relationship with Other Applicable Laws

Neither VAWA nor this Policy implementing it shall preempt or supersede any provision of Federal, State or local law that provides greater protection than that provided under VAWA for victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking.

XIV. Amendment

This policy may be amended from time to time by AHA as approved by the AHA Board of Commissioners.